

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for promoting hair growth in a human or other mammal comprising the step of administering a therapeutically-effective amount of at least two active agents selected from the group consisting of vasodilators, estradiols, 5- α -
5 reductase inhibitors and pharmaceutically-acceptable salts, esters and pro-drugs of these active agents.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the vasodilator is one of the agents and is selected from the group consisting of minoxidil, nitroglycerin, diazoxide,
10 nifedipine and mixtures thereof.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of administration comprises applying a topical composition.

15 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of administration comprises oral administration.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of administration comprises administration by injection.
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6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of administration comprises a combination of at least two methods selected from the group consisting of topical, injection and oral methods.

25 7. The method of Claim 3, wherein the method comprises administering a composition comprising from about 0.01% to about 5% minoxidil, by weight of the composition.

8. The method of Claim 4, wherein the oral administration comprises
30 administering from about 5 to about 100 mg of minoxidil per day.

9. A method for promoting hair growth in a human or other mammal comprising the step of administering a therapeutically-effective amount of a vasodilator and a therapeutically-effective amount of an estradiol and pharmaceutically-acceptable salts, esters and pro-drugs thereof.

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10. The method of Claim 9, wherein the vasodilator is selected from the group consisting of minoxidil, nitroglycerin, diazoxide, nifedipine, pharmaceutically-acceptable salts, esters, and products thereof, and mixtures thereof.

10 11. The method of Claim 9, wherein the step of administration comprises applying a topical composition.

12. The method of Claim 9, wherein the step of administration comprises oral administration.

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13. The method of Claim 9, wherein the step of administration comprises administration by injection.

14. The method of Claim 9, wherein the step of administration comprises
20 a combination of at least two methods selected from the group consisting of topical, injection and oral methods.

15. The method of Claim 11, wherein the topical composition comprises administering a composition comprising from about 0.01% to about 5% minoxidil by
25 weight of the composition.

16. The method of Claim 12, wherein the oral administration comprises administering from about 5 to about 100 mg of minoxidil per day.

17. A method for promoting hair growth in a human or other mammal comprising the step of administering a therapeutically-effective amount of a vasodilator and a 5- α -reductase inhibitor.

5 18. The method of Claim 17, wherein the vasodilator is selected from the group consisting of minoxidil, nitroglycerin, diazoxide, nifedipine and mixtures thereof.

19. The method of Claim 17, wherein the step of administration comprises applying a topical composition.
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20. The method of Claim 17, wherein the step of administration comprises oral administration.

21. The method of Claim 17, wherein the step of administration comprises
15 injection administration.

22. The method of Claim 17, wherein the step of administration comprises a combination of at least two methods selected from the group consisting of topical, injection and oral methods.
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23. The method of Claim 19, wherein the method comprises administering a composition comprising from about 0.01% to about 5% minoxidil.

24. The method of Claim 20, wherein the oral administration comprises
25 administering from about 5 to about 100 mg of minoxidil per day.

25. A composition comprising at least two active agents selected from the group consisting of a vasodilator, estradiol and a 5- α -reductase inhibitor and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, pro-drugs and mixtures thereof.

5 26. The composition of Claim 25, wherein the vasodilator is one of the agents and is selected from the group consisting of minoxidil, nitroglycerin, diazoxide, nifedipine and mixtures thereof.

27. The composition of Claim 25, wherein the 5- α -reductase inhibitor is one
10 of the agents and comprises finasteride.

28. A composition comprising a vasodilator and estradiol and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, pro-drugs and mixtures thereof.

29. The composition of Claim 28, wherein the vasodilator is selected from
5 the group consisting of minoxidil, nitroglycerin, diazoxide, nifedipine and mixtures thereof.

30. A composition comprising a vasodilator and a 5- α -reductase inhibitor and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, pro-drugs and mixtures thereof.

31. The composition of Claim 30, wherein the vasodilator is selected from
5 the group consisting of minoxidil, nitroglycerin, diazoxide, nifedipine and mixtures thereof.

32. The composition of Claim 30, wherein the 5- α -reductase inhibitor comprises finasteride.

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33. A pharmaceutical preparation in unit dosage form adapted for administration to promote hair growth comprising, per dosage unit, at least two active agents selected from the group consisting of minoxidil, estradiol and finasteride in an effective non-toxic amount within the range of from:

- 5 (i) about 1 to about 300 mg minoxidil;
 (ii) about 1 to about 90 mg estradiol; and
 (iii) about 0.5 to about 15 mg finasteride.

34. The pharmaceutical preparation of Claim 33, wherein the unit form is
10 adapted for oral administration.

35. The pharmaceutical preparation of Claim 34, wherein the form adapted for oral administration is a tablet.

36. A composition comprising at least two active agents selected from the group consisting of a vasodilator, estradiol and a 5- α -reductase inhibitor in a pharmaceutically-acceptable topical carrier.